



TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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DAN McALLISTER
Treasurer-Tax Collector



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McALLISTER ANNOUNCES 3-STEP PLAN TO REFUND MILLIONS IN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

REFUNDS AND REFUND NOTICES TO BE SENT TO APPROXIMATELY 11,000 SAN DIEGO COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS

County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister announced today a 3-step program that could return millions of dollars in unclaimed property taxes to taxpayers who overpaid or are otherwise due refunds for tax years 1996 through 2002.

“When I was elected in November, 2002, I made a promise to take a very detailed look at the overall business processes and practices of the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s operations. From the beginning, we have been successful at ferreting out problems and issues that needed addressing. We have also been successful at developing long-term solutions to the problems we have discovered,” McAllister said.

“During a recent examination of the refund processes, we discovered that while notices and claim forms had been sent to taxpayers who overpaid their property taxes between 1996 and 2002, very limited efforts were made afterwards to make certain taxpayer monies were actually returned to their rightful owners. Sadly, the number of refunds due is nearly 11,000 and the amount is \$2.4 million. These are taxpayer dollars and it is incumbent upon this office to make every possible effort to return the overpayments. If we are to expect taxpayers to pay their tax bills on time, then it is reasonable for them to expect that when they overpay, the County will refund their monies in a timely fashion,” McAllister added.

The refunds begin today. In fact, more than 750 tax refunds totaling \$186,979 are going in the mail to County property owners. More will follow in the coming weeks and months as names and parcel numbers are matched.

“Over the next 10 months, my office will go well beyond the statutory requirements of California state law as we attempt to reunite taxpayers with their money. In addition to beginning the refund process today, I am announcing a 3-step program that will better enable us to match the taxpayers who overpaid during the 6-year period between 1996 and 2002 (prior to my election). This is a high priority for my office,” McAllister said.

**Highlights of the 3-Step Plan for Taxpayers Who May Want to
Know if They Are Due a Refund**

1. **Treasurer-Tax Collector website:** For online information log on to www.sdtreastax.com - A complete alphabetical listing of taxpayers who are due a refund is available beginning this afternoon;
2. **Taxpayers can visit any of our five convenient locations throughout the County to check for their names:**

Treasurer-Tax Collector offices located throughout San Diego County:

Downtown San Diego:	1600 Pacific Highway, Room 162 (County Administration Center)
El Cajon:	200 South Magnolia Avenue
Chula Vista:	590 Third Avenue
San Marcos:	334 Via Vera Cruz
Kearny Mesa:	9225 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard

3. **Taxpayers can phone toll free 1-877-TAX-4SDC (1-877-829-4732)** to speak with a Treasurer-Tax Collector team member between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For the hearing or speech impaired, TTY phone service is available toll free at **1-877-735-2929**.

“If we have not found all the rightful owners of the refund monies by the end of June 2006, then I will ask the County Board of Supervisors to escheat the remaining unclaimed monies to the County’s General Fund so that funds can be put to work for the public good throughout the County,” McAllister said.

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